



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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ASTRAGALUS GRAYI
GRAY'S MILKVETCH

Gray's Milkvetch is an herbaceous perennial with numerous, simple or branched stems, 20-35 cm long and arising together from a branched rootcrown just below the ground. Alternate, pinnately compound leaves are 4-10 cm long with 3-11 wire-like leaflets. Leaves are rather stiff and often held erect or ascending. Foliage is thinly covered with long hairs. Unbranched inflorescences, 2-7 cm long, arise from the axils of upper leaves and have 9-27 somewhat congested, ascending flowers. Cream-colored, pea-like flowers have a partly reflexed upper petal that is 15-23 mm long and a calyx that is 6-10 mm long and thinly to densely covered with long white or black hairs. Oblong pods are green and fleshy, glabrous, round in cross section, and 9-18 mm long. Flowering and fruiting in June.

The combination of narrow, wire-like leaflets, no wider than the axis of the leaf, and erect stems and fruits is diagnostic. *A. PECTINATUS* has similar foliage, but the pods are deflexed, and the stems often lie on the ground.